

## **REMARKS/ARGUMENTS**

The applicants acknowledge, with thanks, the Office Action dated December 1, 2008. This amendment and the attached Request for Continued Examination is responsive to that Office Action. Each of independent claims 1, 9, and 17 has been amended herein. In addition, dependent claims 3, 5-8, 11, 13-16, 19, and 21-24 have been amended herein as well. Claims 2, 4, 10, 12, 18, 20, and 25-32 have been previously canceled. Accordingly, claims 1, 3, 5-9, 11, 13-17, 19, and 21-24 are currently pending.

The amendments to the claims present no new matter. In particular, with regard to independent claim 1 for example, the feature of associating each device queue with a document output destination is not new matter as it was disclosed in the original application and set out at paragraph [0026] of the application as published. Also, Figure 2 of the present application shows an embodiment wherein device queues 205 are associated with document output destinations 108.

Reconsideration of the application as amended is respectfully requested.

### **The Office Action**

Claims 1, 3, 5-9, 11, 13-17, 19, and 21-24 were rejected in the Office Action dated December 1, 2008 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over U.S. Patent No. 5,897,260 to Zingher (*hereinafter*, “Zingher”), in view of U.S. Patent Publication No. 2003/0182575 to Korfanta (*hereinafter*, “Korfanta”), and in further view of U.S. Patent No. 6,498,656 to Mastie et al. (*hereinafter*, “Mastie”).

### **The Subject Application**

For purposes of review, the subject application is directed to a system and method for distribution a document to at least one destination. Document data representative of an electronic document is received for distribution. Each of a plurality of device queues are associated with a unique document processing functionality. A job is created by appending to the document data at least one printer job language command, wherein the at least one printer job language command includes instructions for the distribution of the job by a document distribution queue and device data specifically identifying at least one device queue for

distribution of the electronic document. Each device queue is associated with a document output destination. The document data with the appended at least one printer job language command is communicated to the document processing queue, wherein the appended at least one printer job language command is parsed. The job, inclusive of the at least one printer job language command, is then distributed to at least one device queue specified within the at least one printer job language command based on the parsed at least one printer job language command. Each job received into each device queue is processed in accordance with the document processing functionality associated therewith.

As described with regard to an embodiment at paragraph [0027] of the present application as published:

As evidenced by the preceding example, the document distribution system 200 of the present invention advantageously reduces the amount of network traffic generated by a distribution request. When a user creates a document for distribution to multiple destinations 108, one job with multiple commands (e.g., PJL commands) is sent to the document distribution queue 220. The document distribution queue 220 reads the commands and sends the job to each desired destination 108. Thus, the present invention reduces network traffic by, *inter alia*, causing only one job to be sent to the distribution queue 220, rather than multiple jobs, with each job representing a different destination 108.

The amended independent claims clarify distinctions over the art of record wherein in the present application, routing and the distribution queue are separated from the device queue operation which enhances throughput by distributing queue workload.

In contrast, Zingher is directed to a system wherein a job is sent to a queue for processing. No distribution information is appended to the job. The queue in Zingher is only aware of various printing plant options available to it, along with workloads or features available at such printing plants. The queue then intelligently decides where to send the printing job for optimized processing.

Essentially, therefore, Zingher is directed to a print job allocation system wherein incoming documents are routed via distribution dictated by a single print job processor. The processor analyzes the job and makes a determination as to which of a plurality of printing machines should complete the job. Conversely, the subject application uses printer job language to determine as to which queue to which a document is to be routed. Thus, routing is done to a

queue in accordance with printer job language commands. Printing functionality associated with each particular queue is performed automatically on documents that are routed to that queue. Stated differently, rather than merely performing an operation, such as printing, e-mailing, facsimile transmission, or the like in accordance with commands, such as printer job language commands, the subject application employs two queues. The first queue analyzes the printer job language commands, and determines which of plural, available destination queues to which the document should be routed. Each queue has associated with it unique functionality. By way of further example, one queue suitably is a facsimile gateway. Any document routed to that queue will be sent via fax. The printer job language which routes the document to this queue does not need to specify a fax. It merely sets a destination queue. If that same queue were to be altered to instead e-mail documents, than the document would be e-mailed when routed to that queue, even though the printer job language commands are the same as before.

Thus, the subject application allows for hierarchical queue routing wherein document processing is dictated by attributes associated with a destination queue. This is far removed from the teachings of Zingher, wherein the print processor itself analyzes a document to determine where it concludes best for printing.

#### **All Pending Claims Are in Condition for Allowance**

In the Office Action, the Examiner noted that Zingher is deficient relative to teaching communicating the electronic document and appended printer job language to the document distribution queue via a data network; receiving, into the document distribution queue, the electronic document and appended printer job language; parsing, via the document distribution queue, the printer job language from the electronic document and distributing the job inclusive of the print job language to at least one destination. The Examiner relies on the added teaching of Korfanta to address these deficiencies. In particular, the Examiner took the position that Korfanta teaches a system wherein a desired document is wrapped in a print job language wrapper where the printer job language commands add control instructions to the individual print job, and wherein the document including the printer job language commands are sent to a printer-related device, and further wherein the printer-related device unwraps the PJJ command and prints the document when it receives the document.

Applicants respectfully submit, however, that the deficiencies of the teachings of Zingher with respect to the claims as amended are not remedied by any teachings of Korfanta, which only teaches the use of printer job language for specific printing commands and functions, but not for purposes of routing documents as provided in the claims herein.

The Examiner further relied on the teachings of Mastie which, according to the Examiner, teaches a system for routing print jobs to one of a plurality of print queues wherein when the system receives a print job it parses through the attributes of the job, determines if there are logical printers that have compatible print attributes as the print job, and then routes the print job to the print queue for the printer that has the capability of processing and printing the print job.

Applicants respectfully submit, however, that the deficiencies of the teachings of Zingher and of Korfanta are not remedied by any teachings Mastie. In particular, applicants respectfully submit that Mastie does not teach, suggest or fairly disclose hierarchical queuing as set out in the amended claims herein wherein a first queue parses the printer job language and routes to a second queue which has been pre-associated with an output destination. In Mastie, print jobs are simply routed based on capabilities of the printer devices associated with the print job distribution network. The amended claims clarify at least this distinction, which separates distribution queuing and routing from device queuing, and which results in benefits including an enhanced throughput by distributing queue workload.

The amended independent claims 1, 9, and 17 clarify distinctions over the art of record wherein in the present application, routing and the distribution queue are separated from the device queue operation which enhances throughput by distributing queue workload.


It is respectfully submitted that none of the art of record, alone or in combination, teaches, suggests, or fairly discloses this feature.

In accordance with the afore-noted amendments and comments, it is submitted that all claims are patentably distinct over the art, and in condition for allowance thereover. An early allowance of all claims is respectfully requested.

If there are any fees necessitated by the foregoing communication, the Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge such fees to our Deposit Account No. 50-0902, referencing our Docket No. 66329/33336.

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Respectfully submitted,

  
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